

## NOTES ON THE G. B. VOGT COLLECTION, PART I: SOUTH TEXAS (COLEOPTERA AND HEMIPTERA)

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*Abstract.*—Information is given on the recently acquired entomological collections of George B. Vogt. The diverse material of Coleoptera and Hemiptera collected in southern Texas (1946–1947) and discrepancies between the label data and information published by the collector in several papers from 1949 are discussed.

*Key Words:* South Texas, Coleoptera, Hemiptera

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The sudden and unfortunate death of George B. Vogt on Dec. 12, 1990 has deprived his friends and colleagues of one of the most widely interested entomologists of his time. George's life was recently sketched by Anderson et al. (1991).

George left a tremendous wealth of entomological material to the National Museum of Natural History. Much of the material is still in a very raw state and an enormous commitment of time and space will be required to complete the preparation and curation of George's collections. However, some of the material from the earlier years of his career, notably that collected while George was working for the Public Health Service and resident in South Texas (1946–1947), arrived mounted and labelled and is slowly being integrated into the general collections at NMNH. This material is mostly representative of a wide array of beetle families along with several drawers of various groups of Hemiptera. Following his return from Texas in 1948, George published five papers on the material he had collected. These appeared in this chronology and discussed taxa within the following families: 1949a (Cicindelidae); 1949b and 1949c (Buprestidae); 1949d and 1949e

(Cerambycidae). However, George also collected numerous examples of many other beetle families and these records were never published. Because of the demise of most of the habitat in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, I suspect that some, if not most, of this material represents taxa that may be quite rare in collections and might well be endangered or possibly extinct in nature. The first example of the value of this collection is the newly described tenebrionid, *Branchus whiteheadi* Steiner (1991), with nearly half of the type series coming from the Vogt collection. W. E. Steiner has also told me (pers. comm.) that another tenebrionid, *Oenopion zopheroides* (Horn), is represented by three specimens in the Vogt collection and was recently discussed as being one of the rarest of North American tenebrionids in collections (Doyen 1971). More recently, Doyen (1984) discussed the restricted distribution and habitat of another tenebrionid, *Eusattus puberulus* LeConte. There are seven specimens in the Vogt collection which represent a range extension into a further southern Texas county. The locality data for this taxon reads: Willacy Co., Tex., B. 30-XI-46.

Even though this material is in the best

Table 1. South Texas localities for the G. B. Vogt collection. Numbers are as published in Vogt (1949c) and letters are as on the specimen labels.

County	Numbered Locality (Vogt 1949c)	Lettered Label Localities
Cameron	1	G
	2	A; maybe B
	3	C; maybe H and I
	4	D
Hidalgo	5	N
	6	B; maybe X
	7	J and Q
	8	V
	9	nearest to D
	10	E and H
	11	T
Starr	12	B
	13	A
	14	I
	15	E
	16	P
	17	Q
	18	nearest to H
	19	G
	20	M
	21	L
	22	K
	23	N
	24	J

state of preparation and accessibility of any part of the Vogt collection, there is a most interesting problem which requires clarification before this material can be fully utilized. In Vogt (1949c), he published a biologically annotated list of the buprestids he had collected. This paper contained a map showing numbered localities in Cameron, Hidalgo and Starr counties and descriptions of the floral associations and topography of each locality. This map was repeated in Vogt (1949d). For reference and comparability, this map is reproduced here (Fig. 1) essentially as it was originally published. Unfortunately the localities were not specified in any spatial sense and precise locations cannot be assigned.

Almost unbelievably, none of the material is labelled in such a way as to be used

in conjunction with this map nor is it otherwise particularly informative. All labels list the region of the county (e.g. S.W.), state, date and collector's name, but all other locality information is abbreviated by a single letter designation (Table 1). Following the locality label, there are labels which describe behavior (e.g. flying) or the condition of the adult host and/or plant associations. For example, a specimen of *Chrysobothris basalis* LeConte is labelled as follows with a comma (,) separating data from each line and a slash mark (/) between data from each label: "S. W. Hidalgo Co, Tex V. 30-IX-47, George B. Vogt/Fresh dead tree/On Acacia Farnesiana L. Willd./Stridulating somewhat faintly." It is the "V." before the date that refers to the primary locality and since these alphabetical codes are not used in the papers or maps, the definition of these codes is immediately important.

Fortunately there is a set of large blueprint-like general highway maps of various Texas counties which are part of the archival material and will be preserved in the Smithsonian archives. These maps were prepared by the Texas State Highway Department in 1936 and variously revised during the early and middle 1940s. At least one copy of maps of Cameron, Hidalgo and Starr counties has handwritten annotations showing the alphabetical codes in reference to the roads and population centers that existed then. These code letters are not completely congruent with the numbered map from Vogt (1949c) (Fig. 1), so I have illustrated these localities on a second map (Fig. 2) modified from the original. With the large scale changes to the habitat and expansion of the population and agriculture along the Rio Grande in these counties, it was decided to graphically represent these localities rather than try to discuss them in terms of discrete distances from various reference points.

There is a separate set of letters for each county and since the specimen labels always indicate the county and letter, there should

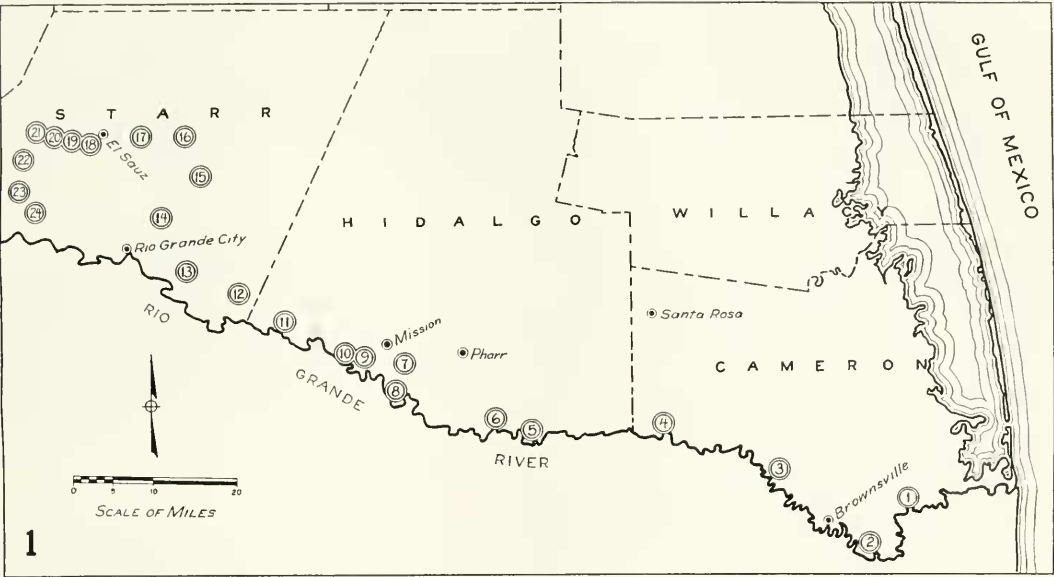


Fig. 1. Distribution of collecting localities from Vogt (1949c, e).

be no confusion here. Some of the letters are apparently congruent with the numbered localities from Fig. 1 and these are listed below. In some cases, the numbered localities probably refer to more than one lettered locality.

There is also some material (e.g. Tenebrionidae) that was collected in Willacy Co. which bears the locality letter 'B', but there is not an annotated map of that county from which to derive more precise locality data. The only localities which were fully ar-

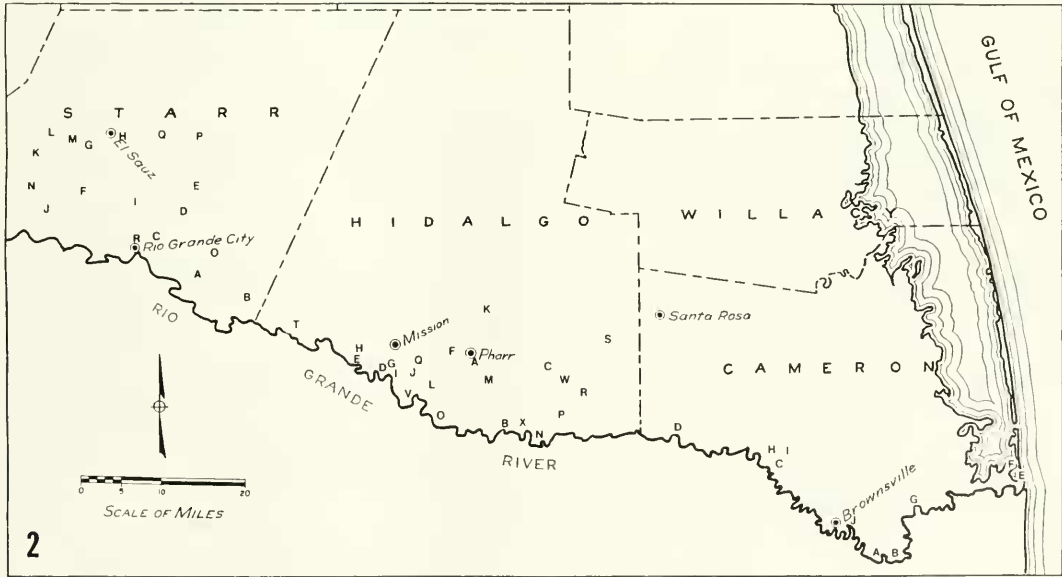


Fig. 2. Distribution of collecting localities from hand numbered maps.

ticulated were those used for the eight taxa described by Vogt (1949a, b). These are repeated here to clarify some data originally omitted and to further relate the lettered label data to precise localities. In the case of the three cicindelids (Vogt 1949a) and five buprestids (Vogt 1949b), no exact data for the respective holotypes were given with the descriptions, so this is clarified below.

*Cicindela nigrocoerulea subtropica* Vogt, 1949a: 2. Holotype (USNM #59055): S.W. Hidalgo Co., Tex. H. 27-X-46, George B. Vogt. Two localities were given for the type series, with the "H" corresponding to: "five miles southwest of Mission."

*Cicindela obsoleta neojuvencilis* Vogt, 1949a: 4. Holotype (USNM #59056): S.W. Hidalgo Co., Tex. H. 6-X-46, George B. Vogt. The entire type series was from the same locality, "five miles southwest of Mission."

*Cicindela cazieri* Vogt, 1949a: 6. Holotype (USNM #59057): Starr Co., Tex. E. 5-X-47, George B. Vogt. The published locality was "ten miles north of Rio Grande City."

*Chrysobothris publineata* Vogt, 1949b: 48. Holotype (USNM #58836): Starr Co., Tex. A. 12-IV-47, George B. Vogt/Rio Grande City, 6½ mi. S.E.

*Agrilus exsapindi* Vogt, 1949b: 49. Holotype (USNM #58837): S.W. Hidalgo Co., Tex. 29-III-47, George B. Vogt/One mi south Granjeno Tex. The allotype bears the same first label which differs: "V.30-III-47" and no second label.

*Agrilus sapindicola* Vogt, 1949b: 50. Holotype (USNM #58838): same exact labels and data as holotype of *A. exsapindi*.

*Agrilus obscurilineatus* Vogt, 1949b: 52. Holotype (USNM #58839): Starr Co., Tex. A. 12-V-47, George B. Vogt/Rio Grande City, Tex., 6½ mi. S.E.

*Pachyscelus fisheri* Vogt, 1949b: 53. Holotype (USNM #58840): S.W. Cameron Co.,

Tex. H. 6-IX-47, George B. Vogt/Santa Maria, Tex., 3 mi. E.

Neither the allotypes, where present, nor paratypes of any of these taxa are presently labelled with locality information beyond a letter designation.

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